



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW IF YOU KEEP YOUR ANIMAL OUTDOORS

LAWS AND OTHER BASIC INFORMATION

If you make the big decision to adopt an animal, it is your duty to provide the best possible life for them which includes the bare necessities such as food, water, shelter, and veterinary care. Cats and dogs can be a 15+ year commitment and this should be considered before accepting one into your household. We here at Alpine Animal Services strongly encourage that your pet lives their lives with you as part of the family which means they are included in your home as well. We do understand that sometimes your pet may need to be outside so we would like to provide you with some helpful information.

STATE AND LOCAL LAWS PERTAINING TO ANIMALS BEING OUTSIDE

REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTSIDE DOGS FROM CITY OF ALPINE ORDINANCE:

Sec. 10-41. - Standards.

(a) Requirements for outside dogs—Confinement requirements for dogs kept outdoors. An owner of a dog commits an offense if the fenced yard, or other pen or structure, used as the primary living area for the dog to regularly eat, sleep, drink and eliminate is not:

- (1) At least 150 square feet for each dog six months of age or older;
- (2) Designed, constructed, and composed of material sufficient to prevent the dog's escape; and
- (3) Designed in a manner that provides the dog access to the inside of a dog house, building, or shelter that meets all requirements of subsection (a)(4) of this section.

- (4) A dog house or other building or shelter for a dog must:
- a. Have a weatherproof top, bottom and sides;
 - b. Have an opening on no more than one side that allows the dog to remain dry and provides adequate shade during daylight hours to prevent overheating and discomfort to the dog;
 - c. Have a floor that is level and dry;
 - d. Be free from cracks, depressions, and rough areas that might be conducive to insects, parasites, and other pests;
 - e. Be of adequate size to allow the dog to stand erect with the dog's head up, to turn around easily, and to sit and lie down in a comfortable and normal position;
 - f. Have sufficient clean and dry bedding material or other means of protection from the weather that will allow the dog to retain body heat when the weather is colder than what a dog of that breed and condition can tolerate;
 - g. Provide suitable means for the prompt elimination of excess liquids;
 - h. Be structurally sound, maintained in good repair, and constructed with material that protects the dog from injury; and
 - i. Allows the dog in and out.

REQUIREMENTS FOR TETHERING OF ANIMALS FROM CITY OF ALPINE ORDINANCE AND WORD FOR WORD IN THE TEXAS PENAL CODE:

Sec. 10-60. - Tethering of animals; unlawful restraint of a dog.

(a) Tethering of animals. A person commits an offense if he tethers, chains or otherwise secures an animal by or under any of the following methods or circumstances:

- (1) To tether any animal with a tether that is not equipped with swivel ends and which is not also attached to a pulley or a trolley;
 - (2) To tether an animal in such a way that it is capable of moving within 15 feet of any public right-of-way, park, or other public land, including sidewalks, or within five feet of any privately or commercially owned property line when such tether or line is stretched to its full length;
 - (3) To tether any animal in such a manner as to cause the animal injury or pain or not to permit the animal to reach shelter, food and/or water or otherwise create an unsafe or unhealthy situation;
 - (4) To tether any animal in a manner whereby the animal is subject to harassment by people, stings or bites from outdoor insects or attacks by other animals;
 - (5) To tether any animal in such a manner that does not prevent the animal from becoming entangled with any obstruction, from partially or totally jumping any fence, or from leaving its owner's property;
 - (6) To fail to remove waste from the area within which the animal is tethered on a reasonable basis so as to avoid a health hazard;
 - (7) To tether any animal without using a properly fitted collar or harness which prevents the tether from being directly wrapped around the animal's neck;
 - (8) To tether with a choke-type or pinch-type collar of any sort is forbidden, when animal is tethered;
 - (9) To tether any animal in such a manner as to permit the animal to leave the owner's property.
- (b) Unlawful restraint of a dog. An owner may not leave a dog outside and unattended by use of a restraint that unreasonably limits the dog's movement:

- (1) Between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.;
- (2) Within 500 feet of the premises of a school; or
- (3) In the case of extreme weather conditions, including conditions in which:
 - a. The actual or effective outdoor temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit;
 - b. A heat advisory has been issued by a local or state authority or jurisdiction; or
 - c. A hurricane, tropical storm, or tornado warning has been issued for the jurisdiction by the National Weather Service.
 1. In the case of subsections (b)(3)a.–c., being violated, the animal services officer has the right to remove the animal from the owner’s property without a seizure warrant issued by a judge and house said animal at the animal shelter until proper means of protection from the weather can be met and approved by the officer. If proper means of protection have not been completed within ten days of the removal of animal, the animal becomes property of the city and is subject to adoption or euthanasia if the animal is found to be not adoptable.
- (4) In this section, a restraint unreasonably limits a dog’s movement if the restraint:
 - a. Uses a collar that is pinch-type, prong-type, or choke-type or that is not properly fitted to the dog;
 - b. Is a length shorter than the greater of:
 1. Five times the length of the dog, as measured from the tip of the dog’s nose to the base of the dog’s tail; or
 2. Ten feet.
 - c. Is in an unsafe condition; or
 - d. Causes injury to the dog.
- (5) Exceptions. This section does not apply to:
 - a. A dog restrained to a running line, pulley, or trolley system and that is not restrained to the running line, pulley, or trolley system by means of a pinch-type, prong-type, choke-type or improperly fitted collar;
 - b. A dog restrained in compliance with the requirements of a camping or recreational area as defined by a federal, state or local authority or jurisdiction;
 - c. A dog restrained for a reasonable period, not to exceed three hours in a 24-hour period, and no longer than is necessary for the owner to complete a temporary task that requires the dog to be restrained;
 - d. A dog restrained while the owner is engaged in, or actively training for, an activity that is conducted pursuant to a valid license issued by this state if the activity for which the license is issued is associated with the use or presence of a dog;
 - e. A dog restrained while the owner is engaged in conduct directly related to the business of sheepherding or herding cattle or livestock; or
 - f. A dog restrained while the owner is engaged in conduct directly related to the business of cultivating agricultural product: if the restraint is reasonably necessary for the safety of the dog.

CATS

Because cats do not tend to stay within their own yard without special fencing it is recommended to keep your cats indoors for the cat’s safety as well as to avoid citations for running at large. If a cat is kept outside, we would require the same for the cat as we do for outside dogs. They would need a shelter and should not be left out in extreme weather conditions. Cats should never be left out on a

tether.

LIVESTOCK OR FOWL

In order to keep livestock or fowl within city limits, you must obtain a permit to do so. These animals are also required to have access to basic necessities such as food, water, shelter, and veterinary care. A permit can be denied or revoked if these animals are also not properly sheltered and living outside.

WHAT WE RECOMMEND

If you cannot provide a safe, healthy home for an animal do not get one. Most domestic animals do not want to be left outside and without human companionship. We understand that living conditions may change, putting the animal outside permanently is not a fix to this issue. Finding another home where someone can give your pet what they need for the remainder of its life is what we recommend. Alpine Animal Services can give you resources if you are needing to re-home your pet.

HELPFUL LINKS:

[Winter Weather Is Upon Us—Are You and Your Pets Prepared? | ASPCA](https://www.asPCA.org/news/winter-weather-upon-us-are-you-and-your-pets-prepared?)

<https://www.asPCA.org/news/winter-weather-upon-us-are-you-and-your-pets-prepared>

[Hot Weather Safety Tips | ASPCA](https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/hot-weather-safety-tips)

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/hot-weather-safety-tips>

[Cold Weather Safety Tips | ASPCA](https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/cold-weather-safety-tips)

<https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/cold-weather-safety-tips>

[Cold weather animal safety | American Veterinary Medical Association](https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/cold-weather-animal-safety)

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/cold-weather-animal-safety>

